

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
EB-07 COME-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
MC-02 DHA-02 /084 W  
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R 151331Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2122  
INFO DOD WASHDC  
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 4826

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, AU  
SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR FY1979-  
AUSTRIA

REF: STATE 133136

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EXISTING MODES SECURTIY ASSISTANCE  
RELATIONSHIP WITH AUSTRIA (\$40,000 IN IMET IN FY1978 AND AN  
ESTIMAATED US \$1.2 MILLION SALES OF SPARE PARTS UNDER FMS DURING  
THE SAME PERIOD) SHOULD BE CONTINUED. IT HELPS SUPPORT GENERAL  
US INTEREST OF MAINTAINING PRO-WESTERN, MILITARILY NEUTRAL  
AUSTRIA IN CENTRAL EUROPE WHERE NATO AND WARSAW PACT SYSTEMS  
FACE ONE ANOTHER. AUSTRIA HAS AN EXCELLENT RECORD ON HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND IS ITSELF TAKING ACTION TO PROVIDE TIGHTER CONTROLS  
OVER MILITARY ARMS EXPORT IN CONTEXT OF ITS INTERPRETATION OF  
ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS NEUTRAL. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRIA IS A SMALL, MILITARILY NEUTRAL STATE OCCUPYING  
A STRATEGIC LOCATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE WHERE TWO MAJOR  
POLITICAL-MILITARY POWER CONSTELLATIONS (NATO AND WARSAW  
PACTS: WESTERN DEMOCRATIC STATES AND EASTERN ONE-PARTY  
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AUTHORITARIAN SYSTEMS) MEET. PRESERVATION OF AN  
INDEPENDENTNEUTRAL, PRO-ESTERN AUSTRIA WHICH IS  
ECONOMICALLY VIABLE AND HAS A CREDIBLE DEFENSE  
CAPABILITY, REMAINS A MAJOR US POLICY OBJECTIVE.

3. A PRO-WESTERN, MILITARILY NEUTRAL AUSTRIA SERVES  
US INTERESTS IN THAT IT:

- A) COMPLICATES WARSAW PACT PLANNING?
- B) REDUCES OVERLAND MILITARY AND POLITICAL THREAT TO ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA;
- C) SERVES FOR EE AREA AS AN EXAMPLE OF A FUNCTIONING PLURALISTIC STABLE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND HIGHLY PROSPEROUS, CONSUMER-ORIENTED ECONOMY AND AS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO ONE-PARTY, STATE-CONTROLLED EE SYSTEM;
- D) ALLOWS USG CONTINUED USE OF AUSTRIA FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITIES;
- E) PERMITS AUSTRIA TO PLAY A HELPFUL, MODEST SUPPORTIVE ROLES IN AREAS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, UN PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES, STRENGTHENING OF WESTERN ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS, ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT, ETC.

4. A MODEST SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH AUSTRIA HELPS SUPPORT FOREGOING GENERAL US INTERESTS AND SERVES THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- A. DEMONSTRATES CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR AN INDEPENDENT, NEUTRAL AUSTRIA;
- B. ENCOURAGES GOA, IN ABSENCE OF MAJOR DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS FOR CENTRAL EUROPE, TO MAINTAIN, NOT REDUCE, EFFECTIVENESS OF AUSTRIA'S MILITARY POSTURE;
- C. PROMOTES VIA MILITARY TRAINING COMMUNITY OF THINKING REGARDING MILITARY STRATEGY AND TACTICS.

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- D. PROVIDES VIA MILITARY TRAINING AND SALES ADDITIONAL USG INFLUENCE OVER MILITARY AND, TO LESSER DEGREE, GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES;
- E. ALLOWS FUTURE CLOSER COORDINATION OF AUSTRIAN MILITARY PLANNING WITH NATO, SHOULD NECESSITY EVER ARISE, THAN WOULD BE TRUE IN ABSENCE OF ANY US-AUSTRIAN SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP.

5. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO PARA 4 OF REFTEL.

- A. GOA BELIEVES IT CURRENTLY FACES NO IMMEDIATE MILITARY THREAT BUT THAT IT MUST REALISTICALLY BE CONCERNED ABOUT THREE POSSIBLE FUTURE THREATS. FIRST ONE INVOLVES A FULL-SCALE AGGRESSION AGAINST AUSTRIA IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MAJOR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE (INVASION OF WESTERN EUROPE BY WARSAW PACT). SECOND THREAT IS FORESEEN AS PENETRATION OF AUSTRIA BY HOSTILE MILITARY FORCES FOR LIMITED TACTICAL PURPOSES (PURSUIT OF

FLEEING REFUGEES, CUT OFF ESCAPE ROUTES OF DISSIDENT ARMED ELEMENTS, BLOCK OVERLAND ACCESS TO YUGOSLAVIA FROM ITALY BY STRIKING ACROSS CORNER OF AUSTRIA FROM HUNGARY). THIRD GENERAL THREAT IS ENVISAGED AS TAKING FROM OF INTERNAL PARAMILITARY DISTURBANCES BY EXTREMIST ELEMENTS OF RIGHT OR LEFT. IN EVERY CASE GOA FORESEES STRATEGY OF COORDINATION OF POLITICAL-DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY INPUTS AS BEST MEANS OF DEALING WITH THREAT. COMMENT UNDER C BELOW SETS FORTH ROLE OF MILITARY IN DEALING WITH THESE POSSIBLE FUTURE THREATS. EMBASSY IS OF LIKE MIND WITH GOA AS TO NATURE AND PROBABLE FORM OF FUTURE THREATS TO AUSTRIA, BELIEVES GOA ASSESSMENT TO BE REALISTIC AND FEELS THAT THERE ARE NO OTHER VIABLE ALTERNATIVES, IN ABSENCE OF GENERAL DISARMAMENT IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND IN VIEW OF OBJECTIVES OF USSR POLITICAL-MILITARY POLICY.

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B. PROVISION OF US OF MODEST PROGRAM OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS BASEDON WHAT IS FELT TO BE POSSIBLE FUTURE THREAT. SHOULD CAPABILITIES OF WARSAW PACT CONTINUE TO GROW AS COMPARED WITH NATO OR SHOULD POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR IN YUGOSLAVIA OR ITALY ADVERSE TO US INTERESTS, EXISTING LIMITED THREAT TO AUSTRIA WOULD BECOME GREATER AND MORE IMMEDIATE.

C. AUSTRIAN DEFENSE FORCES HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THREE BASIC MISSIONS: (1) DEFEND BORDERS AGAINST AGGRESSIVE ALL-OUT ATTACK AIMED AT CONQUEST AND OCCUPATION; (2) DEFEND BORDERS AGAINST HOSTILE INCURSIONS

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EB-07 COME-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 4826

BY REGULAR MILITARY FORCES OR IRREGULAR PARAMILITARY GROUPS;  
AND (3) ASSIST POLICE IN MAINTAINING INTERNAL SECURITY. TO  
SUPPORT THESE MISSIONS, AUSTRIAN MILITARY PLANNERS HAVE ESTAB-  
LISHED FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS: TWO MOTORIZED COMBAT DIVISIONS,  
TO FIGHTER-BOMBER SQUADRONS, ONE COMBAT BRIGADE IN EACH  
PROVINCE (9 INCLUDING VIENNA) AND A TRAINED RESERVE OF  
300,000 MEN. AUSTRIA CURRENTLY HAS ONE MOBILE DIVISION IN THE  
PROCESS OF ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING, ONE FLYING REGIMENT  
EQUIPPED WITH SWEDISH SAAB 105 AIRCRAFT, COMBAT BRIGADES OF  
LIMITED CAPABILITY IN EACH PROVINCE, AND A TRAINED RESERVE  
THAT IS ILL EQUIPPED OR TRAINED TO ASSUME A COMBAT ROLE. US  
INTERESTS WARRANT SUPPORT OF PROJECTED AUSTRIAN MILITARY FORCES.  
HOWEVER, GOA HAS OR CAN COME UP WITH FUNDS FOR REQUIRED  
EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER, SHOULD US FUNDING ASSISTANCE NOT  
BE FORTHCOMING.

D. ONLY TWO MAJOR ITEMS WHICH MAY BE ORDERED IN FY 1979 ARE  
24 AIRCRAFT AND 120 TANKS. AUSTRIAN STAFF OFFICERS AND TECHNI-  
CIANS HAVE BEEN IN US STUDYING AND OPERATING F5E AIRCRAFT AND  
M60A3 TANKS IN RECENT MONTHS AS WELL AS SIMILAR PIECES OF  
EQUIPMENT IN OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ISRAEL. GOA  
HAS BEEN SEEKING AN AGREEMENT WITH ARMS EXPORTING NATIONS WHICH  
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PROVIDE AN OFFSET ARRANGEMENT FOR TRANSACTIONS. AUSTRIAN  
MILITARY FORCES ARE CURRENTLY DEFICIENT IN ARMS AND TRAINING  
TO MEET THEIR THREEFOLD MISSION. ACQUISITION OF 24 F5E FIGHTER  
AIRCRAFT AND 120 M60A3 TANKS WOULD ASSIST IN DEALING WITH  
EQUIPMENT DEFICIENCIES. LIMITED TRAINING AND SHORT-TERM  
SERVICE FOR DRAFTEES (6 MONTHS) HOWEVER MAKES ANY SIGNIFICANT  
IMPROVEMENT IN AUSTRIAN MILITARY CAPABILITY DIFFICULT.

E. IF GOA DECIDES TO PURCHASE ITEMS LISTED UNDER D ABOVE FROM  
US, IT WOULD DO SO ONLY UNDER ARRANGEMENT ASSURING MINIMAL  
IMPACT OF PURCHASE ON AUSTRIAN ECONOMY, DEBT SERVICE CAPA-  
BILITY AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANS, WHERE APPLICABLE.

F. BASED ON BEST ESTIMATES, 5 TO 7-MAN TEAM FOR 3 MONTHS WOULD  
BE REQUIRED IN AUSTRIA FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF TANK SALE AND AN  
8-MAN TEAM FOR 6 MONTHS FOR AIRCRAFT SALE. NO PROBLEMS ANTICI-  
PATED WITH THIS ADDED US MILITARY/CIVILIAN PRESENCE IN AUSTRIA.

G. FRANCE, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, ISRAEL, GREAT BRITAIN AND ITALY HAVE SHOWN WILLINGNESS TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO AUSTRIA, AND HAVE COMPETED WITH EACH OTHER AND US FOR SUCH SALES. GOA HAS NOT APPROVED LARGE OUTLAYS FOR ANY NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND PURCHASES CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY \$140 MILLION FOR AIRCRAFT AND \$110 MILLION FOR TANKS. IF DENIED OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE FROM US, AUSTRIA WOULD LIKELY BUY MOST OF ITS EQUIPMENT FROM WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IT MAY HOWEVER BUY SMALL AMOUNTS FROM EE COUNTRIES, E.G. AMMUNITION FOR CZECH MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

H. ARMS CONTROL IMPACT IN CENTRAL EUROPE WOULD BE MINIMAL. AUSTRIAN MILITARY FORCES ARE STRICTLY DEFENSIVE IN NATURE AND ALL COUNTRIES SURROUNDING AUSTRIA ARE EITHER MEMBERS OF A PACT OR ALLIANCE (NATO, WARSAW PACT) OR NEUTRAL OR NON-ALIGNED STATES (SWITZERLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA), ALL OF WHOM HAVE BETTER EQUIPPED AND TRAINED MILITARY FORCES.  
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I. THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD WHICH MIGHT AFFECT OR INFLUENCE USG RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA OR ATTITUDES OF US CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PEOPLE TOWARD AUSTRIA. AUSTRIA'S PERFORMANCE IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD CONTINUES TO BE IMPRESSIVE AND INVOLVES NOT ONLY OPEN, WELL-FUNCTIONING, STABLE PLURALISTIC SOCIETY IN AUSTRIA, BUT GOA CONTINUES ITS GENEROUS POLICY OF POLITICAL ASYLUM, ASSISTANCE TO SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES, AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN AID. ACTION BY USG ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO AUSTRIA WOULD NOT AFFECT HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES OF AUSTRIA.

J. GOA IS MOVING IN SOMEWHAT PARALLEL DIRECTION TO US IN DEVELOPING POLICY OF RESTRAINT ON TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS. THERE IS CURRENTLY BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE DRAFT BILL WHICH WOULD INCREASE RESTRICTIONS ON SALES OF AUSTRIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT ABROAD AND PROVIDE CLEARER DETERMINATION AS TO NEED OR DESIRE FOR SUCH SALES. WE HAVE REQUESTED COPY OF BILL, WHICH ONLY SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT LAST WEEK, AND EXPECT TO PROVIDE DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS OF ITS MAJOR ELEMENTS SHORTLY.

K. IN PAST, AUSTRIA HAS PARTICIPATED REGULARLY IN TWO TRAINING COURSES PER YEAR: A) COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE, AND B) AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER TRAINING. AUSTRIA IS CAPABLE OF PURCHASING THIS TRAINING AND WOULD PROBABLY DO SO REGARDING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER TRAINING AND MIGHT OPT TO CONTINUE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF TRAINING IN US AT ITS OWN EXPENSE. MEEHAN

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## Message Attributes

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